

Sunday Night Message

March 6, 2016

Psalm 114

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 114

Introduction

This psalm was sung by the Hebrew people at the Passover Meal and celebrated their deliverance from the bondage in Egypt. According to Wiersbe, Psalm 113 and 114 were sung before the Passover Meal, and Psalms 115 – 118 were sung after the meal. Because of the emphasis in Psalm 114, this small collection of psalms was called “The Egyptian Hallel.”¹

The deliverance from Egypt was Israel’s national birthday. It was when God called them out of bondage and gave them their freedom to enter the Land of Promise.

This psalm reflects back to God’s deliverance and celebrates God’s awesome power over His enemies.

"When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language;" (Psalm 114:1)

The people of Israel spoke Hebrew, which was, of course, not the national language of Egypt.

"Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion." (Psalm 114:2)

The land of Judah would be the place that God would ultimately place His temple. The rest of Israel was His dominion.

Turn to Exodus 15:1 – 19

"The sea saw it, and fled: Jordan was driven back." (Psalm 114:3)

“The Sea” is a reference to the Red Sea. God parted the Red Sea so that Israel could escape from the Egyptians. God also later parted the Jordan River so that the people could enter into Canaan. The first parting speaks of God’s deliverance from the penalty of sin. The second

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (2004). *Be exultant* (1st ed., p. 83). Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications Ministries.

picture God's deliverance from the power of sin. The Red Sea speaks of justification, and the Jordan speaks of sanctification.

Turn to Joshua 3

"The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like lambs." (Psalm 114:4)

Most likely, this is a reference to the quaking of Mt Sinai when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

Turn to Exodus 19:16 – 20

It could also be a reference to God breaking down any barriers that the people would face in Canaan.

*"What ailed thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest? thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back?"
(Psalm 114:5)*

"Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams; and ye little hills, like lambs?" (Psalm 114:6)

"Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob;" (Psalm 114:7)

People are afraid of mountains, but the mountains are afraid of God. The obstacle that we face in life may be insurmountable to us in our strength, but they will skip like little lambs in the presence of God.

"Which turned the rock into a standing water, the flint into a fountain of waters." (Psalm 114:8)

Two words are used here referring to the rock:

- 1 Exodus 17:1 – 7 – at the beginning of Israel's journey through the Wilderness.
- 2 Numbers 20:1 – 13 – at the end of their journey.

"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." (1 Corinthians 10:1-4)